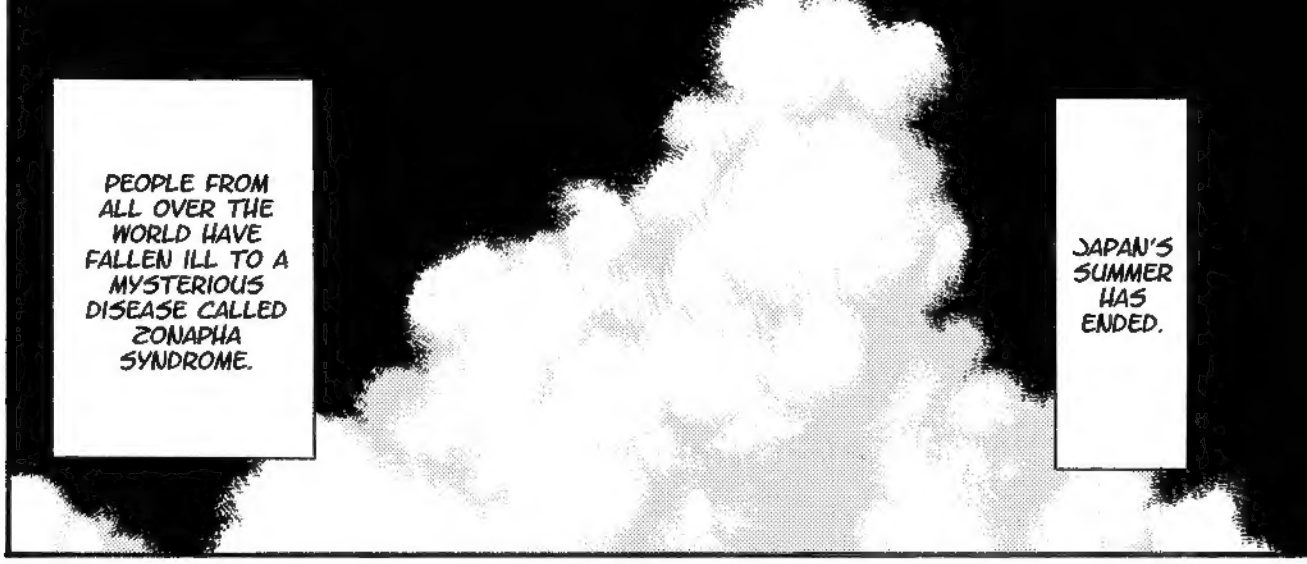
ACT 40 — CHASERS


JAPAN'S SUMMER HAS ENDED.
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE FALLEN ILL TO A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE CALLED ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

FACELESS AND THE AUTOMATA UNDER HIS COMMAND SPREAD IT...

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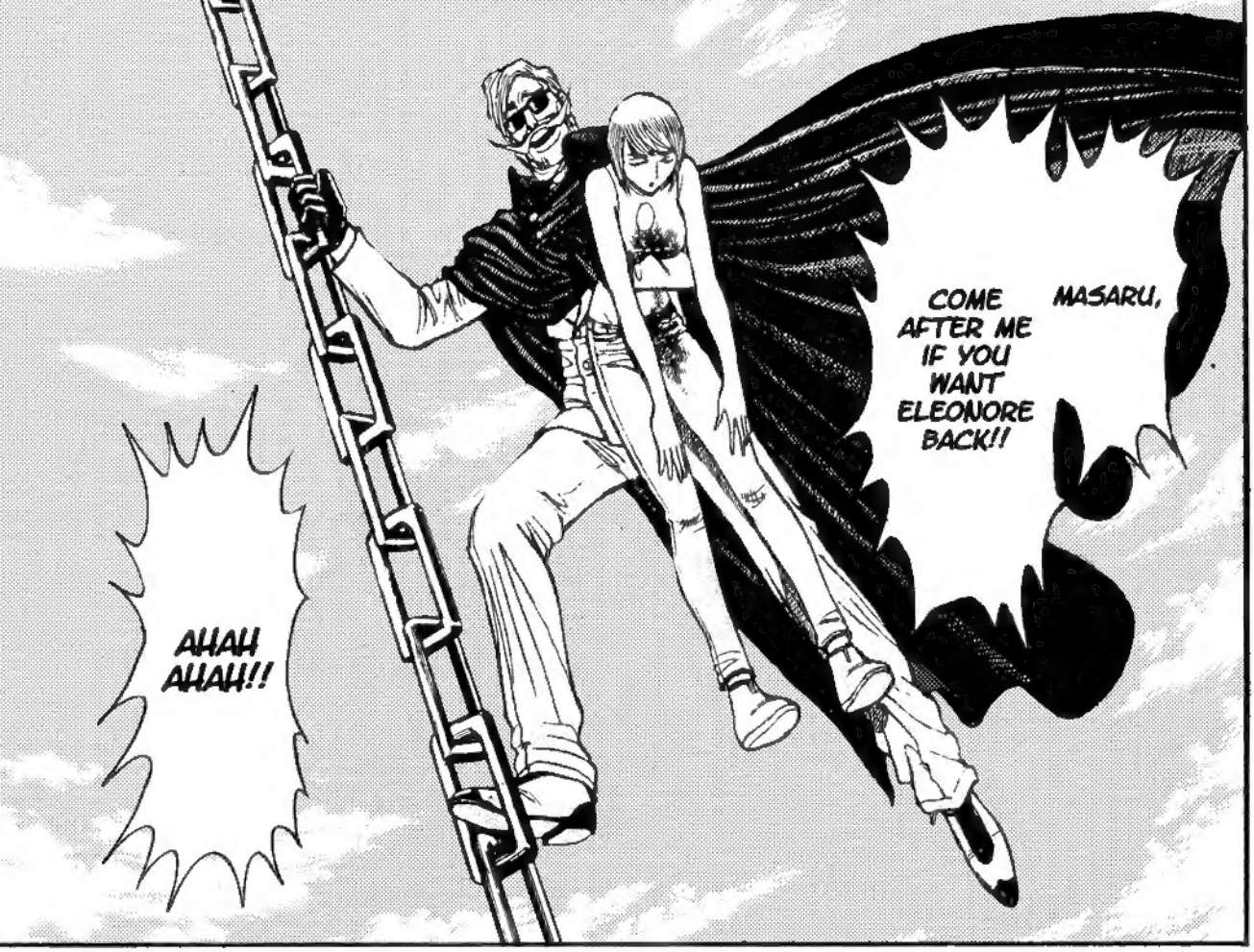
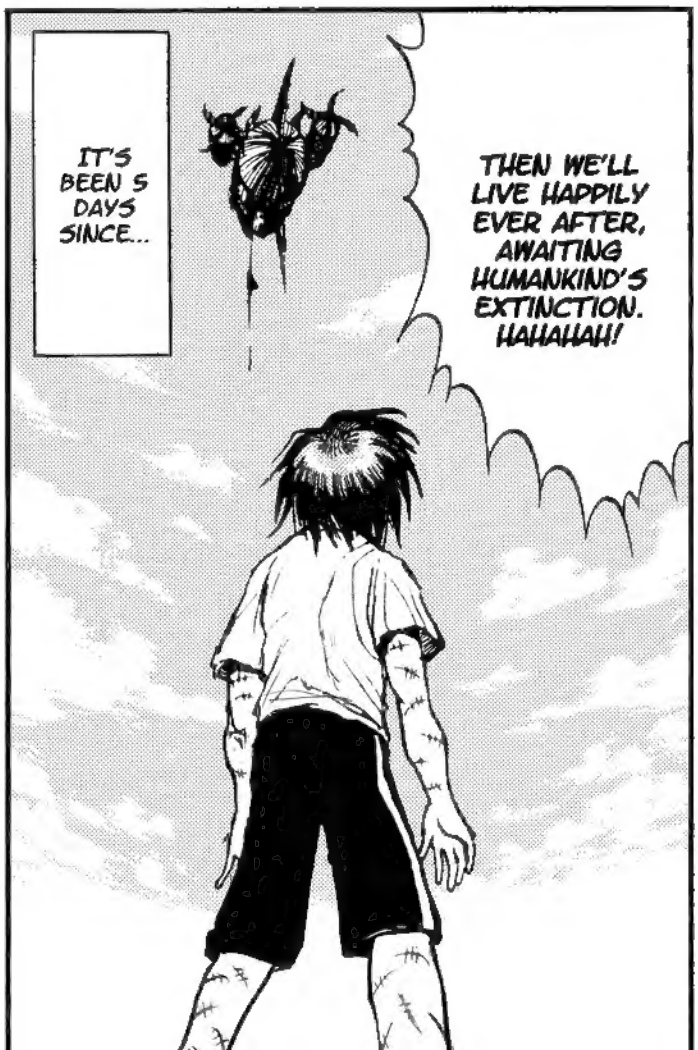
ON TOP OF THAT, SHIROGANE (ELEONORE), THE ONE MASARU VOWED TO PROTECT, HAS FALLEN IN THE HANDS OF FACELESS...

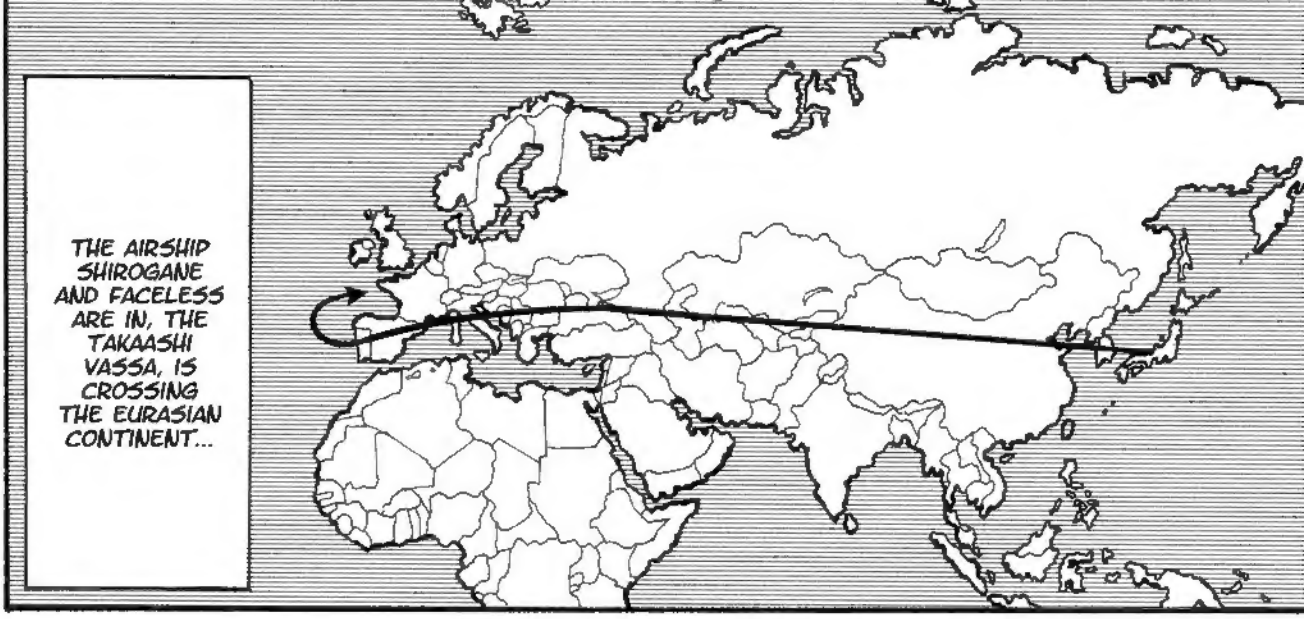
EVEN THOSE CLOSE TO SAIGA MASARU, AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT, COULDN'T AVOID IT.


AHAH AHAH!!
COME AFTER ME IF YOU WANT ELEONORE BACK!!
MASARU,

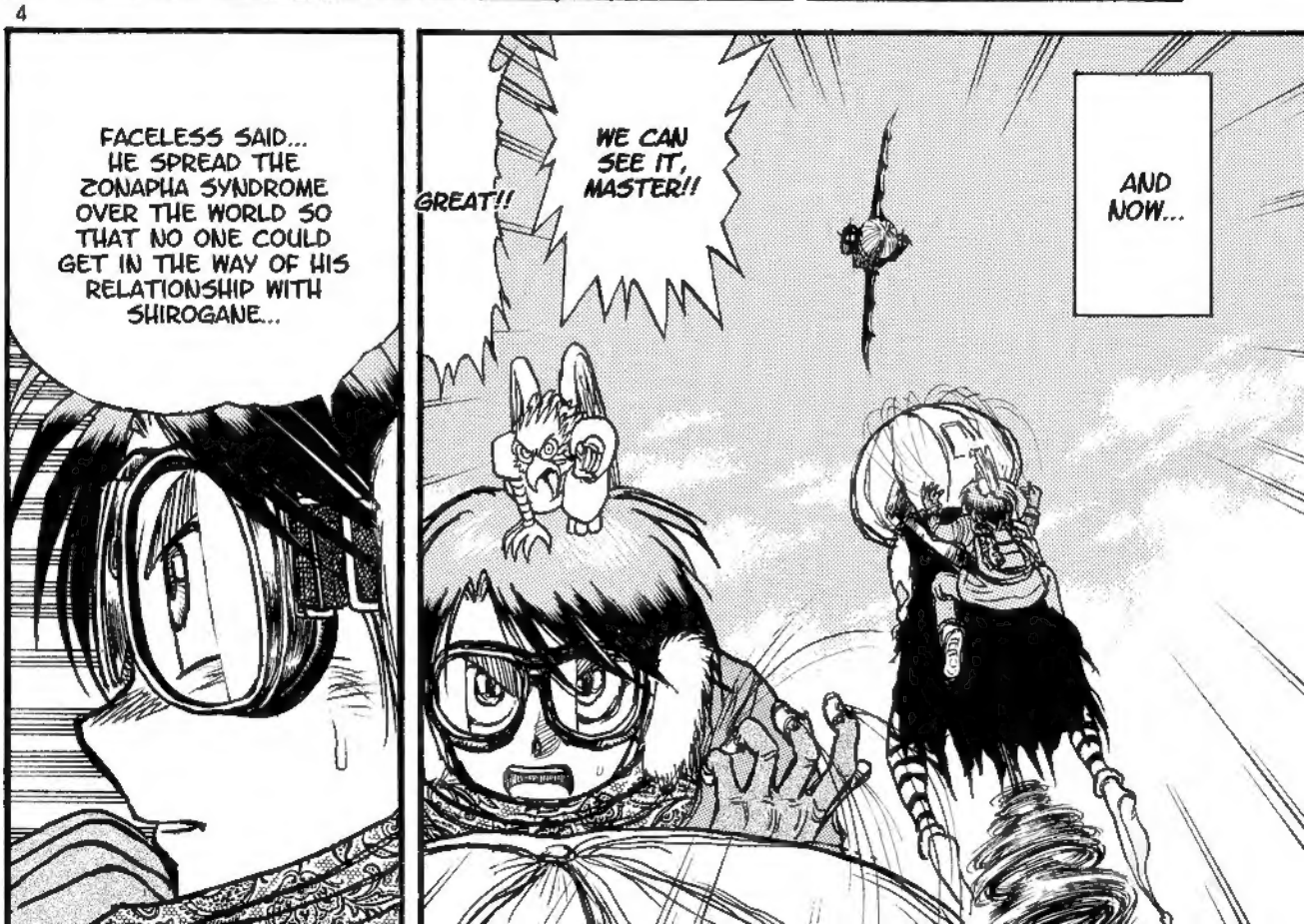

IT'S BEEN 5 DAYS SINCE..
THEN WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER, AWAITING HUMANKIND'S EXTINCTION. HAHAHAH!

FACE-LESS!!

BUT IF YOU DO, I'LL CAPTURE YOU AND TAKE OVER YOUR PLACE.


THE AIRSHIP SHIROGANE AND FACELESS ARE IN, THE TAKAASHI VASSA, IS CROSSING THE EURASIAN CONTINENT...

...GRADUALLY CLOSES THE DISTANCE...
AND MASARU, WHO'S CHASING THEM...


FACELESS SAID... HE SPREAD THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME OVER THE WORLD SO THAT NO ONE COULD GET IN THE WAY OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SHIROGANE...
GREAT!!
WE CAN SEE IT, MASTER!!
AND NOW...

AND SAVE SHIROGANE ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
I'LL DEFEAT HIM...
GRIPPON-KUN... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE FACE-LESS...
BECAUSE OF THAT... YURI-SAN... AND THE PEOPLE FROM KUROGA VILLAGE...

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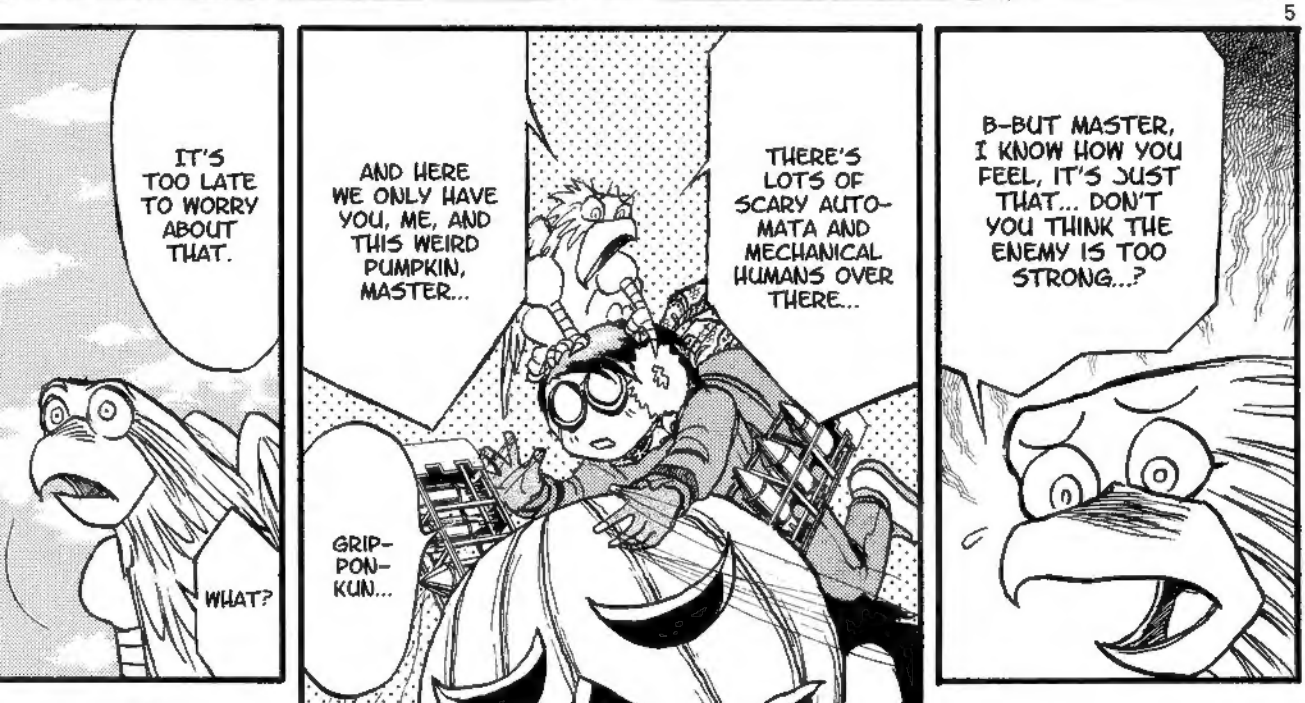
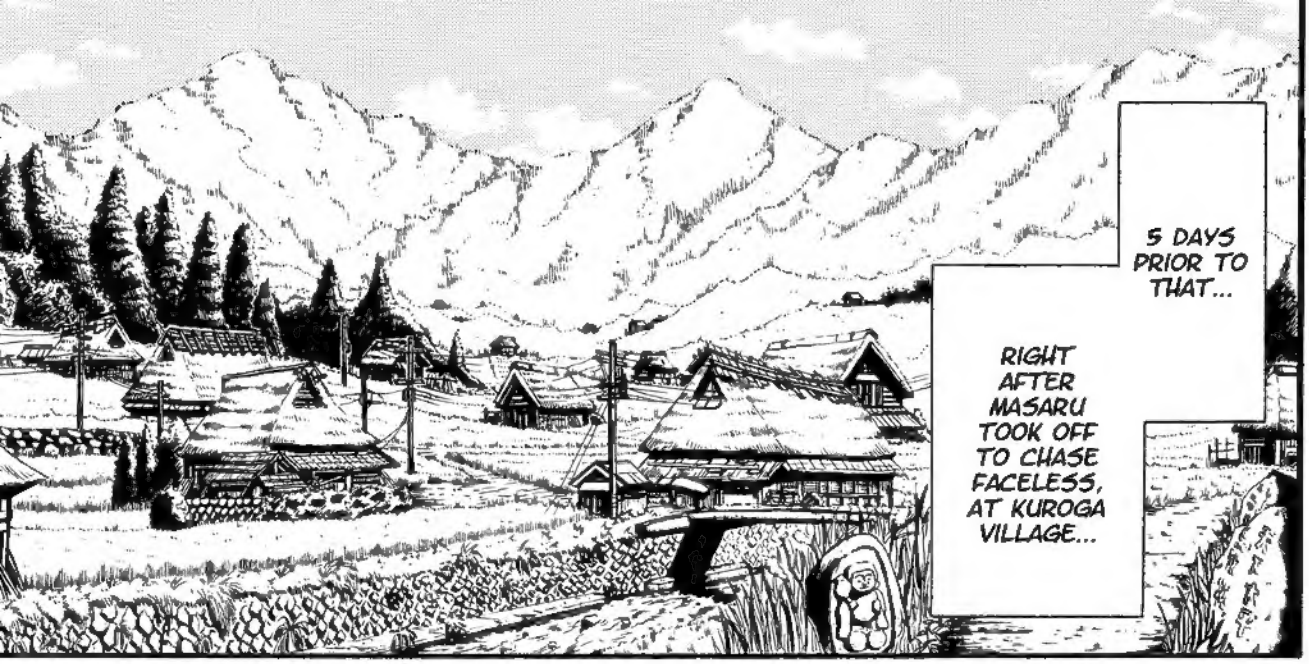
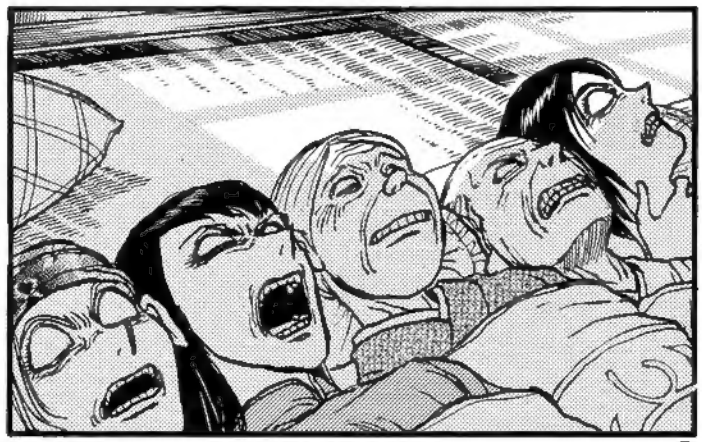

IT'S TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?
AND HERE WE ONLY HAVE YOU, ME, AND THIS WEIRD PUMPKIN, MASTER...
GRIP-PON-KUN...
THERE'S LOTS OF SCARY AUTO-MATA AND MECHANICAL HUMANS OVER THERE...
B-BUT MASTER, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, IT'S JUST THAT... DON'T YOU THINK THE ENEMY IS TOO STRONG...?

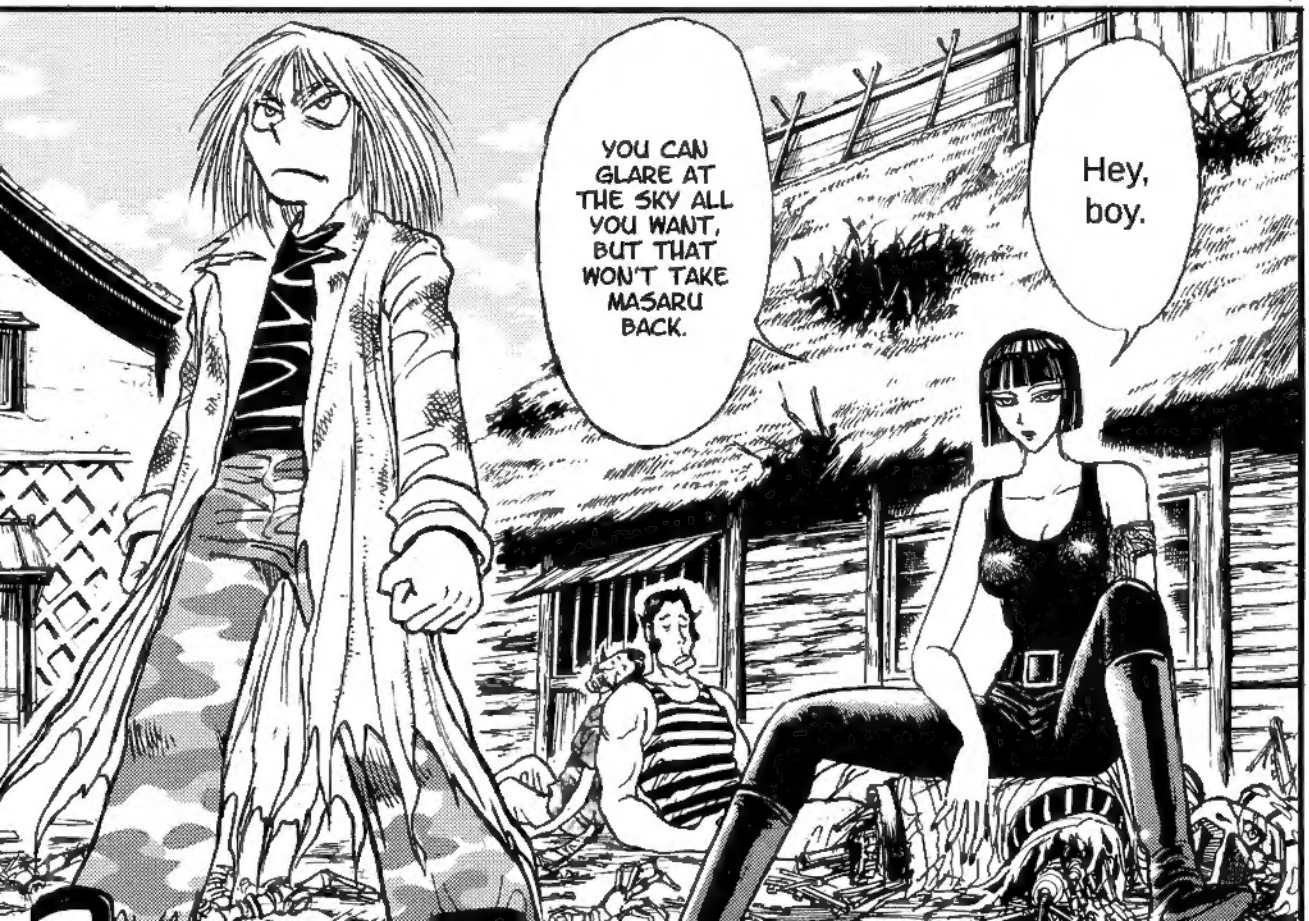
AHHH!!

HOLD ON TIGHT, GRIPPON-KUN.
L-LOOK, HERE THEY COME, MAS-TER!!!

LET'S DO THIS!!


5 DAYS PRIOR TO THAT...
RIGHT AFTER MASARU TOOK OFF TO CHASE FACELESS, AT KUROGA VILLAGE...

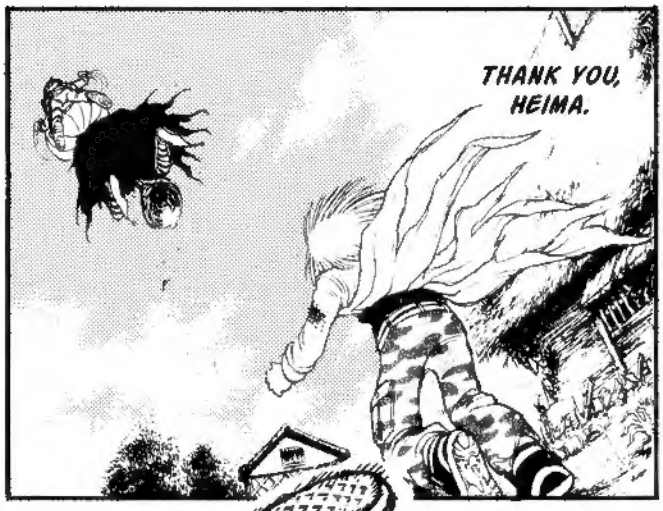


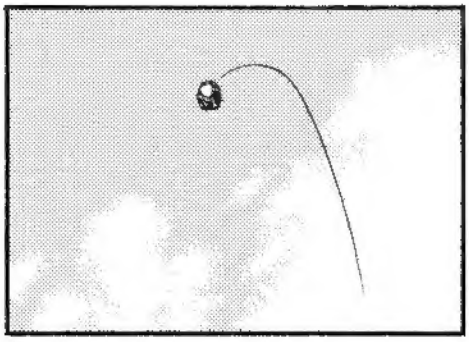

YOU CAN GLARE AT THE SKY ALL YOU WANT, BUT THAT WON'T TAKE MASARU BACK.
Hey, boy.

YOU IDIOT!
AS IF I'D LET YOU WALK TO YOUR OWN DEATH, MASARU!
YET MY BLOOD AS A CHILD BOILS EVEN HOTTER!!
I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO BECOME AN ADULT...
HEIMA, WHO DECIDED THAT CHILDREN ARE WEAKER THAN ADULTS?

...I KNOW THAT!

SHIT... HE WENT OFF BY HIMSELF...


THANK YOU, HEIMA.



DUMBASS, I WANT TO DO SOME-THING TOO!!
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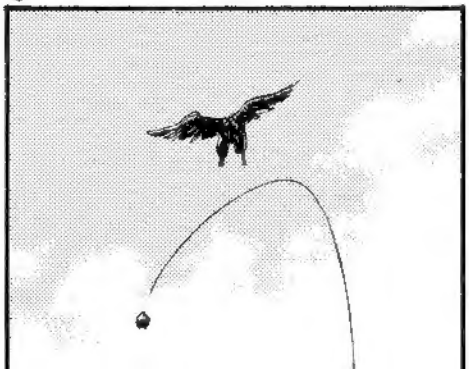

ARE YOU ALRIGHT !?
HEIMA! VILMA!!

IT'S ONE OF THEIR DOLLS!?
WHOA! A MON-STER!!

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YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING.
HE'S A GOOD BOY NOW...
LIESE CAN MAKE ANIMAL DOLLS BECOME OUR ALLIES!
IT'S FINE!

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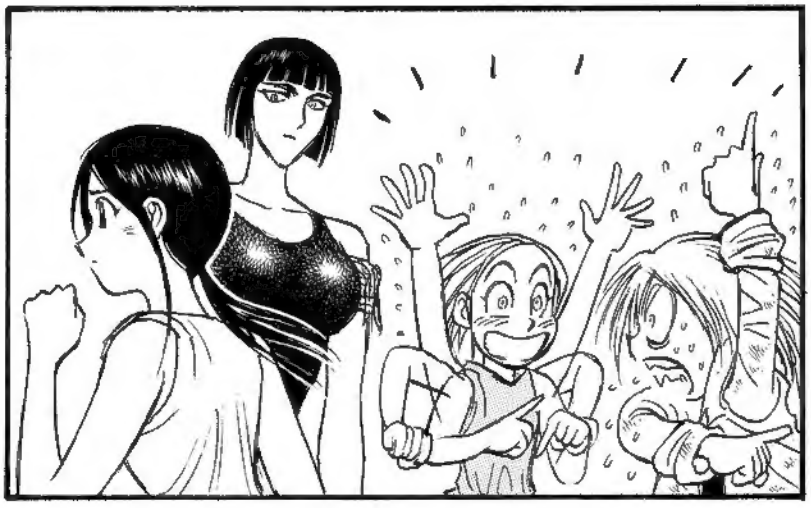
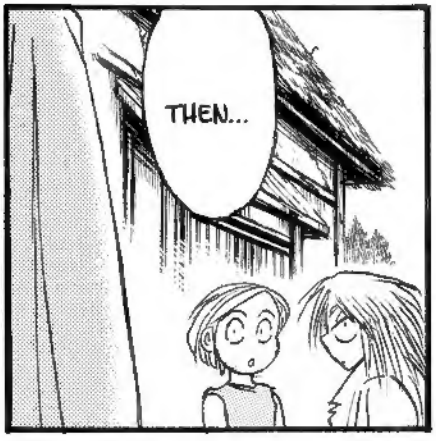
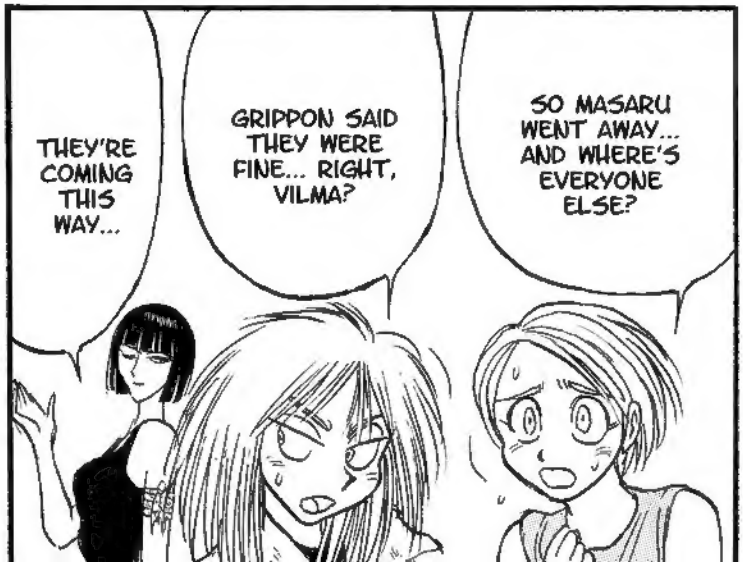
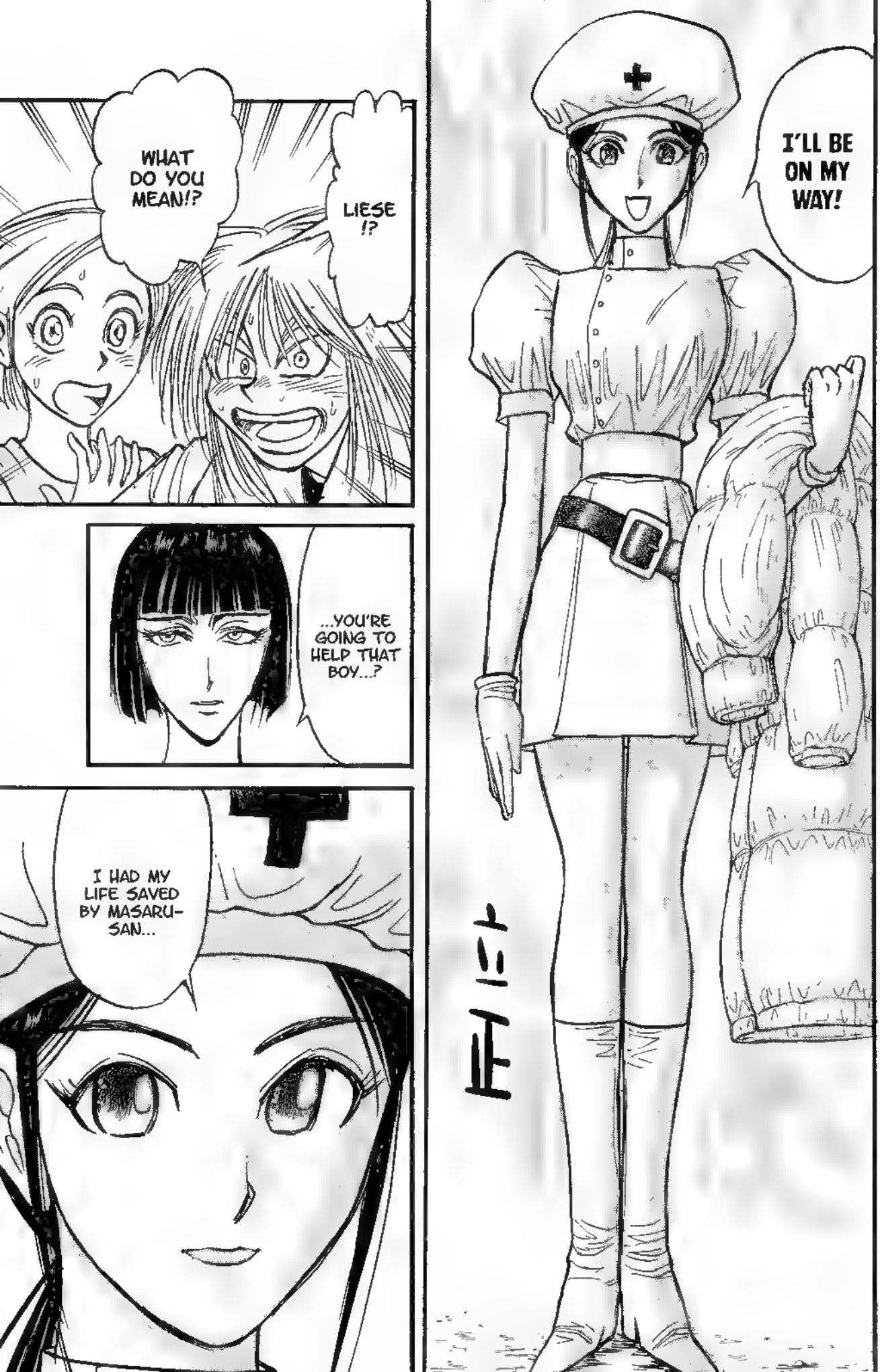
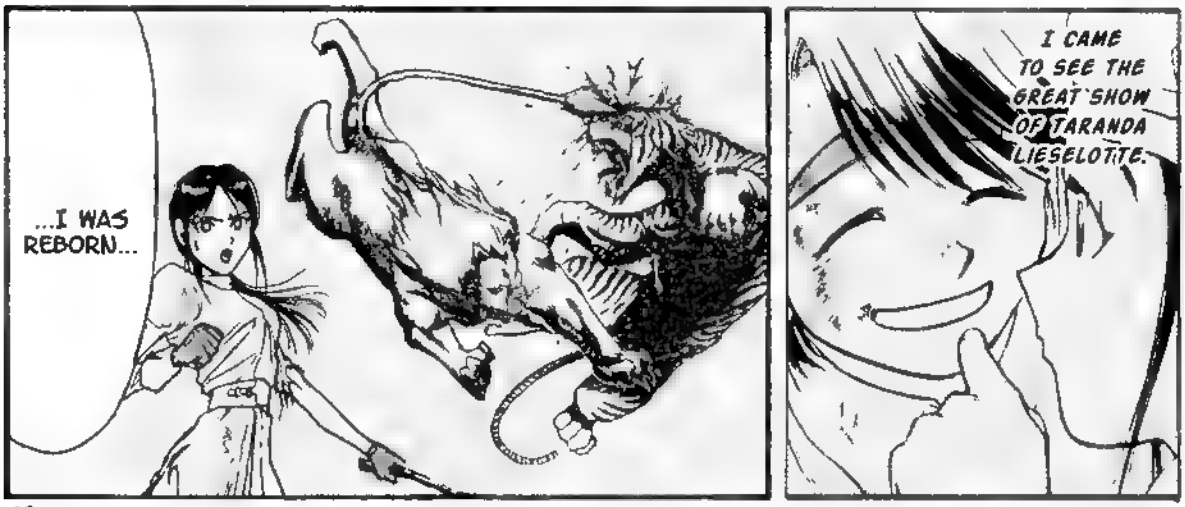



THEN...


THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY...
GRIPPON SAID THEY WERE FINE... RIGHT, VILMA?
SO MASARU WENT AWAY... AND WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?


I'LL BE ON MY WAY!
LIESE !?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
...YOU'RE GOING TO HELP THAT BOY...?
I HAD MY LIFE SAVED BY MASARU-SAN...

BUT MASARU-SAN SAVED ME AND SAID...
I CAME HERE TO JAPAN...
...PREPARED TO DIE FIGHTING A TIGER CALLED BEAST.


...I WAS REBORN...
I CAME TO SEE THE GREAT SHOW OF TARANDA LIESELOTTE.

YOU LOOK HAPPY... OH, WELL...
YES!
I SUPPOSE I CAN'T STOP YOU... YOUR ANIMAL TAMING SKILLS CAN BE USEFUL IN FIGHTING NOW.

...NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SAVE MASARU-SAN.

WAIT, LIESE!!
THEN, SEND MY REGARDS TO BOSS AND THE OTHERS.
13
TAKE ME WITH YOU!!

LIESE, YOU OWN A DEBT TO MASARU, RIGHT?
BUT...
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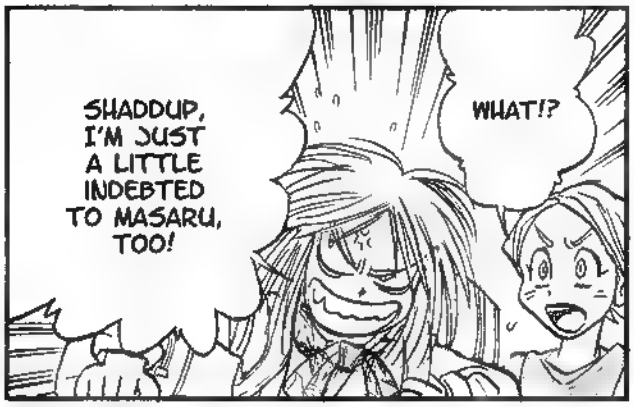
HEH... MASARU MIGHT NEED THIS GUY HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, HEIMA?!!
HEIMA-SAN! YOU CAN'T.

BE-SIDES...
WHICH MEANS I'M INDEBTED TO SHIROGANE-SAN.
APPARENTLY I CAN ONLY MOVE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE I DRANK THE BLOOD OF THAT SHIROGANE GIRL...

I-IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TOO!! OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT MY BAG IS TOO HEAVY FOR THAT BIRD TO FLY?
OH NO... BUT IT'S DAN-GEROUS...


SHADDUP, I'M JUST A LITTLE INDEBTED TO MASARU, TOO!
WHAT!?

Special

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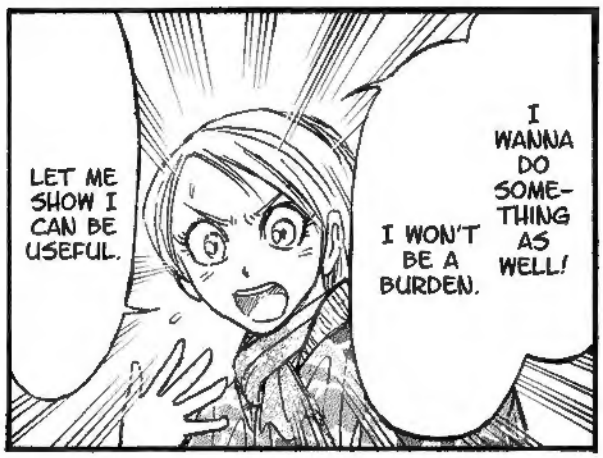
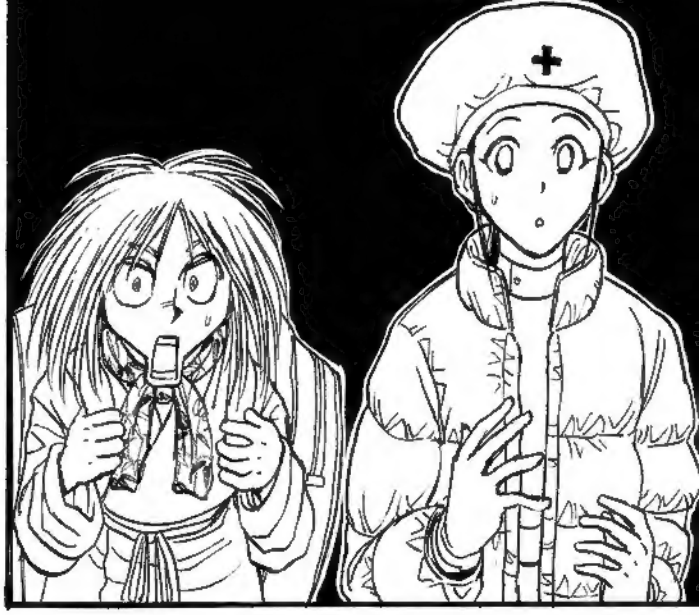
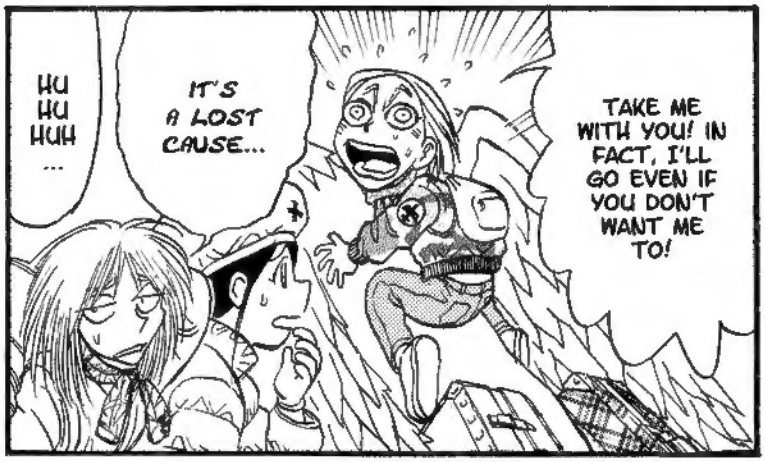
PULL THAT, PLEASE
HE SAYS IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE.
R-RIGHT.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
R... RYOUKO!?

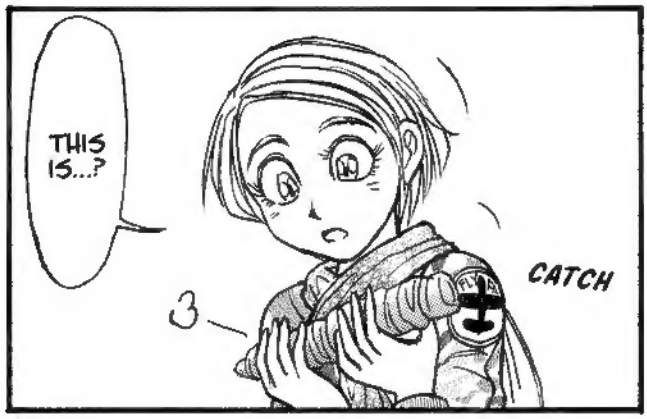
I'M PISSED OFF TOO!!
WAIT... RYOUKO-SAN, THIS IS A BIT TOO MUCH...
YEAH! STEP DOWN!! YOU'LL ONLY BE A BURDEN.
BREATHE IN


LET ME SHOW I CAN BE USEFUL.
I WON'T BE A BURDEN.
I WANNA DO SOME-THING AS WELL!



RYOUKO... YOU REMIND ME A LOT OF MY YOUNGER SELF...


HU HU HUH ...
IT'S A LOST CAUSE...
TAKE ME WITH YOU! IN FACT, I'LL GO EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO!


THIS IS...?
3
CATCH

HERE.

...SHOW THEM THAT EVEN SMALL WOMEN CAN SCRATCH WHEN UNDER-ESTIMATED.
A KNIFE.

T-THANK YOU,
VILMA...
...IT'LL BE BOR-ING...
...IF ALL OF YOU... END UP DEAD.
AND SO,
THOSE THREE TOOK OFF AFTER MASARU.

JUST WHAT IS WAITING FOR THEM...?

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